

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Low-friction seal, with a sealing ring ~~(44)~~ that is accommodated in a hydraulic cylinder, namely with axial and radial clearance in a groove ~~(30,76)~~ in one of two surfaces that need to be sealed relative to one another and that move relative to one another in a translational fashion, characterized by the fact that the sealing ring ~~(44)~~ is arranged opposite to the other surface to be sealed with its cylindrical inner surface ~~(46)~~ that protrudes from the groove ~~(30,76)~~, namely with a sliding fit, and by the fact that means ~~(36, 37)~~ for preventing a pressure propagation to the bottom ~~(38,78)~~ of the groove are provided between the sidewall ~~(34,80, 82)~~ of the groove on the side of the pressure chamber and the sealing ring ~~(44)~~, namely in such a way that, when the seal is charged with a pressure medium, a propagation of the pressure medium only takes place between the cylindrical inner surface ~~(46)~~ of the sealing ring ~~(44)~~ and the other surface to be sealed, with a nearly continuous decrease in pressure taking place over the length of the sealing ring ~~(44)~~.

2. (currently amended) Seal according to Claim 1,
characterized by the fact that the means ~~(36,37)~~ for preventing a
pressure propagation contain a sealing element ~~(36)~~ which is
effective between the sealing ring ~~(44)~~ and the sidewall ~~(34)~~ of
the groove on the side of the pressure chamber.

3. (currently amended) Seal according to Claim 2,
characterized by the fact that the means ~~(36,37)~~ for preventing a
pressure propagation also contain a formed part ~~(37)~~ that acts upon
the sealing element ~~(36)~~ in the axial direction.

4. (currently amended) Seal according to ~~Claim 2 or 3~~
Claim 3, characterized by the fact that the sealing element ~~(36)~~
consists of a plastic sealing ring, the ring width of which is
smaller than the ring width of the sealing ring ~~(44)~~ accommodated
in the groove ~~(30)~~, and the thickness of which is greater than the
width of the gap ~~(39)~~ between the sealing ring ~~(44)~~ and the
sidewall ~~(34)~~ of the groove on the side of the pressure chamber.

5. (currently amended) Seal according to ~~Claim 3 or 4~~ Claim
4, characterized by the fact that the formed part ~~(37)~~ consists of
a flexible ring, in particular, an elastic ring of plastic and/or
rubber.

6. (currently amended) Seal according to ~~one of claims 3-5~~

Claim 5, characterized by the fact that the formed part ~~(37)~~ is arranged in an axially opening annular groove ~~(35)~~ in the sidewall ~~(34)~~ of the groove and presses the sealing element ~~(36)~~ against the sealing ring ~~(44)~~.

7. (currently amended) Seal according to ~~one of claims 3-5~~

Claim 5, characterized by the fact that the formed part ~~(37)~~ is arranged in an axially opening annular groove ~~(35)~~ in the sealing ring ~~(44)~~ and presses the sealing element ~~(36)~~ against the sidewall ~~(34)~~ of the groove.

8. (currently amended) Seal according to ~~claim 6 or 7~~ Claim

7, characterized by the fact that, when charging the seal with pressure, the formed part ~~(37)~~ is deformed in such a way that the pressing force of the formed part ~~(37)~~ against the sealing element ~~(36)~~ is increased.

9. (currently amended) Seal according to ~~one of claims 1-8~~

Claim 8, characterized by the fact that a friction-reducing intermediate disk ~~(60)~~ is inserted between the sidewall ~~(40)~~ of the groove situated distant from the pressure chamber and the sealing ring ~~(44)~~.

10. (currently amended) Seal according to ~~one of Claims 1-8~~
Claim 8, characterized by the fact that a hydrostatic alleviation is provided between the sidewall ~~(40)~~ of the groove situated distant from the pressure chamber and the sealing ring ~~(44)~~.

11. (currently amended) Seal according to ~~one of Claims 1-8~~
Claim 8, characterized by the fact that, if two pressure chambers ~~(66,68)~~ are axially arranged to both sides of the groove ~~(76)~~, means ~~(36a, 37a)~~ for preventing a pressure propagation to the bottom ~~(78)~~ of the groove are provided between both sidewalls ~~(80, 82)~~ of the groove and the sealing ring ~~(44a)~~, and by the fact that at least one drainage channel ~~(90,92)~~ for diverting pressure medium that was admitted into the groove ~~(76)~~ is arranged between the means ~~(36a,37a)~~ for preventing a pressure propagation.

12. (currently amended) Seal according to Claim 11, characterized by the fact that the at least one drainage channel ~~(90,92)~~ connects the groove ~~(76)~~ to the pressure chamber ~~(66,68)~~ or to an essentially nonpressurized space.

13. (currently amended) Seal according to Claim 11, characterized by the fact that one respective drainage channel ~~(90,92)~~ which connects the pressure chamber ~~(66,68)~~ to the groove ~~(76)~~ is provided behind the means ~~(36a,37a)~~ for preventing a

pressure propagation on the side of the pressure decrease, with said drainage channel containing a valve ~~(91,93)~~ that acts opposite to the direction in which the pressure medium drains from the groove ~~(76)~~ into the pressure chamber ~~(66,68)~~.

14. (currently amended) Hydraulic cylinder, with a piston rod ~~(16)~~ that is guided in a guide element ~~(12,70)~~, with groove ~~(30,76)~~ being arranged in the guide element ~~(12,70)~~, and with a sealing ring ~~(44)~~ for sealing leaks between the piston rod ~~(16)~~ and the guide element ~~(12,70)~~ being accommodated in the aforementioned groove, characterized by the fact that the sealing ring ~~(44)~~ is arranged opposite to the other surface to be sealed with its cylindrical inner surface ~~(46)~~ that protrudes from the groove ~~(30,76)~~, namely with a sliding fit, and by the fact that means ~~(36,37)~~ for preventing a pressure propagation to the bottom ~~(38,78)~~ of the groove are provided between the sidewall ~~(34,80,82)~~ of the groove on the side of the pressure chamber and the sealing ring ~~(44)~~, namely in such a way that, when the seal is charged with a pressure medium, a propagation of the pressure medium only takes place between the cylindrical inner surface ~~(46)~~ of the sealing ring ~~(44)~~ and the other surface to be sealed, with a nearly continuous decrease in pressure taking place over the length of the sealing ring ~~(44)~~.